

8th Grade Resources

Citizenship and Civic Engagement in Today's Society

The content focus will be viewed through civic and economic lenses. Citizenship and civic engagement will be taught through inquiry. Eighth grade students will make connections between historical and current/recent issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. United States History will focus on the major events that have their roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments.

Course Considerations:

- Foundations of the United States government stemming from historical events such as the American Revolution and Civil War
- Constitution including structure, function, and principles
- Formal institutions such as Congress, the courts, the presidency, and linkage institutions such as media, elections, interest groups, polling, and political parties
- Historical and current legislation and landmark Supreme Court cases
- Civil rights movements throughout American history such as African-Americans, Latinx, Asian-Americans, women, American Indians, LGBTQ individuals, persons with disabilities, youth, and the elderly
- Immigration
- Amendments to the Constitution that have expanded the right to vote and equal protection under the law
- Social movements and issues both historical and current including the constitutional principles and structures (amendments, courts, Congress, and executive orders) that spur, promote, and protect these movements
- Human rights and genocides including treaties and organizations that promote human rights and a study of the nations and leaders that abuse human rights and/or support genocide (In addition to the study of the Holocaust, other genocides should be studied.)
- Environmental issues
- Information and media age including digital citizenship and media literacy
- Terrorism both domestic and international and how it influences citizens' safety and rights
- Examination of primary and secondary sources including written and oral histories, images, and artifacts
- Disciplinary skills and processes including change and continuity over time, multiple perspectives, using and understanding sources, and cause and effect

NOTE: Resources may be listed as a different grade based upon national or other state curriculum. Please search by topic for sources to use.

Resource	Website	Description
C3 Inquiry	http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiries/	Search by topic to find inquiries that cover the course considerations. Use all or part of the inquiries in your classes.

New Visions Social Studies Curriculum	https://curriculum.newvisions.org/social-studies	Use the Global History and U.S. History tabs to find resources, compelling questions, and lessons for course considerations.
Docs Teach	https://www.docsteach.org/	Wide variety of primary sources from the National Archives covering U.S. History. Includes online tools to create activities based on the primary sources selected.
Newsela	https://newsela.com/	Current events searchable by topic, and grade level. Manipulate the lexile of the article to suit your students' needs.
Stanford History Education Group	https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-lessons	Document-based resources for both U.S. and World History. Lessons include documents, PowerPoints, and handouts all available to edit.
Digital Public Library of America	https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/	Primary source documents organized by topic and includes teaching guides.
CommonLit	https://www.commonlit.org	Search the library for texts relating to U.S. History. Sources and lessons searchable by lexile and include reading guides.
History Assessments – Beyond the Bubble	https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-assessments	History assessments for both U.S. and World that use disciplinary skills and processes standards to assess students.
Actively Learn	https://read.activelylearn.com/#teacher/catalog	Primary and secondary sources organized by topic. Sources can be assigned digitally to students.
Project Learn Smart	https://www.projectlooksharp.org/?action=main	Sources and lessons organized by topic or by grade level and contains a media literacy focus. Many come with teacher and student guides.
Choices Program	http://www.choices.edu/teaching-with-the-news/	Teacher and student resources for current events with a U.S. focus.
Arizona Geographic Alliance	https://geoalliance.asu.edu/	Lessons and resources with a geography focus. Lessons are searchable by topic and grade level.
Bill of Rights Institute	https://billofrightsinstitute.org/educate/educator-resources/	Primary sources and lessons to teach both current events and U.S. History.
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History	https://www.gilderlehrman.org/collection	Primary, secondary sources, and lessons all geared to U.S. History and disciplinary skills and processes. Search by topic, time period, or source type.
Zoom In	http://zoomin.edc.org/	Primary and secondary sources with a U.S. History focus and emphasis on disciplinary skills and processes
Read Works	https://www.readworks.org/	Similar to Newsela. Searchable sources for social studies with adaptable lexile levels.
Primary Source Nexus	http://primarysourcenexus.org/psn-resources/themed-link-sets/cps-social-studies/	Resource partnered with the Library of Congress. Searchable topics and grade levels and includes lessons.

Facing History and Ourselves	https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library	Collection of primary sources and teacher resources on a variety of topics including U.S. History.
Foreign Policy Research Institute	https://www.fpri.org/education/lesson-plans-teachers/	Lesson plans with primary and secondary sources on a variety of topics that include U.S. in a global context.
Teaching American History	http://teachingamericanhistory.org/	Primary and secondary sources from all eras of U.S. History. Sources are searchable by topic, and time. Includes lessons, toolkits, and online exhibits.
iCivics	https://www.icivics.org/	Grades 7-12 lessons, web quests, DBQs, and games geared toward U.S. history and civics.
Library of Congress	https://www.loc.gov/education/	Grades K-12 lessons, primary sources, maps, and professional development on a variety of subjects, not just U.S. History.
Teaching Tolerance	https://www.tolerance.org/	Great lessons, posters, film, K-12 on civics, history, geography, and economics with a focus on tolerance and community.
Teaching History with Technology	http://thwt.org/	Lessons, activities, multimedia and more for grades 6-12 on all social studies content areas.
History Matters	http://historymatters.gmu.edu/	Teaching U.S. History using digital lessons for grades 6-12.
The Smithsonian Museum Lab	http://smithsonianeducation.org/	Huge number of resources for many topics, not just social studies. Resources include lessons, video clips, and interactives. Read or watch the getting started guide to narrow your searches.
Teaching History.org	https://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials	Searchable lessons and resources for K-12 as well as teacher methodologies.
EDSITEment	https://edsitement.neh.gov/	Lessons from the National Endowment for the Humanities. All lessons are searchable by grade level or subject/topic.
Annenberg Learner	https://www.learner.org/	Annenberg Media's K-12 site for videos, lessons, and interactives. Other content areas are available as well.
Constitutional Rights Foundation	https://www.crf-usa.org/	Lessons, readings, and role play for civics. Also included is the Civic Action Project for further engagement.
Citizen U	https://citizen-u.org/lesson-plan/	Civics lessons partnered with the Library of Congress with great primary and secondary sources.